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Sixtieth session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1698TH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 12 May 1993, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. FELIX-PAGANON (France)

later: Mr. RICHARDSON (United Kingdom)

- Opening of the sixtieth session
- Adoption of the agenda
- Report of the Secretary-General on Credentials
- Election of the President and the Vice-President
- Organization of work
- Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1992: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
- Organization of work

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

OPENING OF THE SIXTIETH SESSION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I declare open the sixtieth session of the Trusteeship Council. I express the hope that our deliberations will be productive and will enable us to achieve a final result.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (T/1970)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Members of the Council have before them in document T/1970 the provisional agenda drawn up by the Secretary-General in consultation with the President of the Council under rule 8 of our rules of procedure.

If I hear no comments, I shall consider that the agenda of the sixtieth session is adopted.

The agenda was adopted.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CREDENTIALS

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should like to inform members of the Council that the Secretary-General has still not received the credentials of all members of the Council. May I suggest, therefore, that this agenda item be considered at a future meeting?

If there are no objections, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The absence of official credentials will not prevent me from greeting, on behalf of the Council, the new members of the United States delegation, or from welcoming the delegation of Palau; we are sure its members will make an extremely useful contribution to our work.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I now invite members of the Council to elect a President of the sixtieth session. The election will be carried out by secret ballot pursuant to rule 41 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Mr. Thomas Richardson (United Kingdom) was elected President unanimously.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Before inviting our colleague to assume the presidency of the Council, I should like, on behalf of all members, to congratulate him most warmly.

Before leaving my post I should like, on my own behalf as President of the Council and on behalf of the entire membership of the Council, to express our thanks to the Secretariat for the remarkable work they have done in support of our work this year.

Instead of making the usual statement one makes in these circumstances, I would simply and very briefly express some regret and also good wishes for Mr. Richardson - regret that I shall not be the last President of the Trusteeship Council and the hope that he will be the last President, in the sense that we are all looking forward to the end of the Trusteeship system sometime this year.

I now invite Mr. Richardson to take the Chair.

Mr. Richardson took the Chair.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you one and all. I feel that perhaps I should first advise my friend, Jean Félix-Paganon, not to be optimistic. In my experience matters Palauan are always somewhat uncertain, and it is not yet said that he will not turn out to be the last President. But I think the Council would want me, before I proceed to other business, to pay a very sincere tribute to him for all the work that he has done during the last year as President of the Council.

May I add, on a more personal note, how delighted I was that we were able to visit Palau last year in our various capacities as part of the mission and how much we have profited from our personal knowledge of that wonderful country and its inhabitants. Thank you very much indeed.

(The President)

We shall now proceed to the election of the Vice-President of the Council.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Mr. Jean Félix-Paganon (France) was elected Vice-President unanimously.

The PRESIDENT: I have very little to add to what I have already said by way of tribute, except that I am looking forward enormously to working with him on what, this time more sincerely, I hope will indeed be the culminating part of our endeavours.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: I think all members of the Council have before them a tentative timetable for the sixtieth session of the Trusteeship Council. It has been drawn up on the basis of past experience and in accordance with the timetable prepared for the fifty-ninth session.

Perhaps I could just say in this connection, as I have mentioned earlier in informal consultation, that I hope very much that we shall be able to complete our work in the course of four, if need be, fairly lengthy sessions, this afternoon, Thursday morning, Friday morning and Monday morning, when we will have to adopt, of course, various decisions based on the recommendations of a drafting committee which, in accordance with normal practice, we shall set up on Friday. I mention that only because I am very, very conscious of the fact that all members of the Council, who are of course also members of the Security Council, are fairly pressed at the moment in other ways. And also because I suspect that when we come to our next item of business, that is to say statements by the Administering Authority and by the delegation of Palau, we will find that our business may, in fact, prove somewhat simple and straightforward.

(The President)

So forgive me for that extrapolation, but I did want to say that I hope very much that we shall be able to adhere to this provisional timetable.

If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Council agrees to follow the timetable as closely as possible.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: By the same token, and before going on to the substantive part of our work, perhaps I could say - as I seem to recall saying two years ago with less than complete success - that it would be very helpful indeed if we could start meetings at approximately the time indicated. That would give us more time, as the morning or afternoon proceeds, to get through the work we have before us.

(The President)

I call on the representative of the United States, to introduce members of his delegation.

Mr. WALKER (United States of America): I should like to take the liberty of introducing my colleague, Mr. Allen Stayman, who is the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior. I would ask our colleague - the head of the delegation of the Government of Palau - to introduce his delegation.

Mr. REMENGESAU (Special Representative): It is my privilege to introduce Mr. Harry Fritz, Chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee; Mr. Alan Seid, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee; Mr. Evence Beches, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee; Mr. Tony Mikel, Director of the Bureau of Program Budget and Management; Mr. Charles Uong, Administrative Officer of the Palau-Washington Liaison Office; and Mr. Elbuchel Sadang, Special Representative of the Palau Community College.

The PRESIDENT: I believe that all members of the Council, and particularly those who had the enormous pleasure of visiting Palau a long year ago, would want to say how appreciative we are to the Palau delegation for having come all this way to be here. I recognize many old friends and acquaintances. I am delighted that they are back in New York.

By the same token, I recognize some old friends and new acquaintances in the United States delegation and we are very glad indeed to have them with us.

AGENDA ITEM 4

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1992: TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1969)

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of the Administering Authority.

Mr. WALKER (United States of America): First, I am pleased to extend my delegation's congratulations to you, Sir, on your unanimous election as President of the Trusteeship Council. Your leadership of this Council will be welcomed as a critical ingredient in the resolution of Palau's status. I also wish to accord recognition to the achievements of the past President, Ambassador Felix-Paganon of France. His leadership and guidance of this Council during the past year was welcomed by all involved with the question of Palau's status.

Regarding the important issue of Palau's status, I am pleased indeed to state that there have been significant developments since our last meeting. In a referendum held on 4 November 1992, the people of Palau approved an amendment to the Palau Constitution that reduces from 75 per cent to a simple majority the requirement for Compact approval. The United States considers this an important development and a demonstration that Palau is ready to proceed to determine its future political status. The Palauan Congress linked its approval of a plebiscite to a favourable United States response to requests for certain modifications and assurances related to the Compact. President Nakamura submitted a list of requests to my Government on 25 March. At a meeting held on 2 April between President Nakamura and former Assistant Secretary of State William Clark, and in subsequent discussions, the United States addressed these Palauan concerns. A letter from Secretary of State Christopher to President Nakamura, containing assurances concerning United States intentions with respect to the implementation of the Compact, was delivered on 6 May. We understand that President Nakamura has scheduled a legislative debate later this month on the issue of a plebiscite. The plebiscite is planned for late July. We invite the Council to send a visiting mission to observe this plebiscite.

(Mr. Walker, United States)

When the trusteeship was created in 1947, neither the Security Council nor the United States intended it to be an indefinite status. The United States negotiated the Compact of Free Association in the belief that such an arrangement would be beneficial to Palau. We continue to want Palau to achieve sovereign statehood. We believe free association is the most practical and equitable manner in which to accomplish this goal. A substantial majority of Palauans also appear to favour free association, as majorities ranging from 73 per cent to 60 per cent have supported the Compact in each of the seven plebiscites. Although we think free association is preferable, if Palau were to reject free association independence is obviously a logical alternative. Whatever course the Palauans choose, relations between Palau and the United States will continue to be friendly, cooperative and based on trust and respect.

We cannot remain hostage to the past. Palau has embarked on a new initiative to resolve its status and the United States is hopeful that this effort will result in an end to the trusteeship. The time has come for Palau to take its rightful place in the community of nations. We trust that the work of this Council contributes to this worthy goal.

Mr. STAYMAN (United States of America): The discussions over the next several days of this session will be important for the future of Palau, the last remaining component of the Trust Territory. The leadership and direction provided by the Council will assist Palau in achieving its aspirations for future political status. With your permission, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to describe for the Council some of the major accomplishments that have occurred since the Visiting Mission to Palau in March and April 1992. These accomplishments are the result of the hard work and commitment of the Administering Authority and the Republic of Palau.

(Mr. Stayman, United States)

The Administering Authority supports initiatives of the Government of Palau aimed at resolving the future political status of the country. In August 1992, Palau, through its own constitutional processes, enacted legislation providing for a referendum to amend the Constitution of Palau to reduce the number of votes required to approve the Compact from 75 per cent to 50 per cent plus one. In the referendum, held on 4 November 1992, the amendment was passed by a vote of 61.8 per cent and was certified by the Palau Election Commission. However, a lawsuit regarding the referendum has been filed and will be heard in the Palauan courts at the end of this month.

President Nakamura, during his recent trip to Washington, D.C., expressed the hope that the long and sometimes difficult negotiations between the Government of Palau and the United States will soon culminate in the implementation of the Compact of Free Association. President Nakamura expressed these sentiments to the Palau National Congress and the people of Palau in his State of the Republic address in April. We remain committed to supporting these initiatives by the Palauan people and Government to determine their future political status. In the meantime, the Administering Authority will continue to fulfil its responsibilities in accordance with the Trusteeship Agreement.

Secretary's Order No. 3142 and financial assistance remain the primary instruments through which the United States carries out its trusteeship responsibility to promote self-government and social, educational and economic development. Since the issuance of the Order in October 1990, budget execution and fiscal management by the national and state Governments in Palau have improved significantly. By June or July 1993, the national Government anticipates the elimination of all prior years' debts, which previously hobbled efforts to promote self-government. Communication and coordination

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between the Trust Territory Office and the political leaders of Palau have improved significantly, resulting in a general improvement in Government effectiveness.

Two days ago, we received word regarding another initiative contained in the Secretary's Order. The United Nations Development Programme has awarded the contract for the Palau Master Plan that will be financed by the United States Department of the Interior and the United Nations Development Programme. It is anticipated that the contractor will soon be in Palau to begin the master planning process. In the meantime, the President of Palau has appointed a Master Plan Task Force to work with the master planner.

(Mr. Stayman, United States)

Additionally, and related to the Order, the interim Special Prosecutor's Office has undertaken several criminal cases. Most importantly, the prosecutor, an attorney on loan from the United States Department of Justice, was successful in his prosecution of those responsible for the assassination of Haruo Remelik, the first President of Palau.

The most significant accomplishment in the area of health care was the opening of the new Palau Hospital in December 1992. This modern 80-bed facility with two operating rooms, constructed with a grant of $25 million from the United States Government, has greatly improved health care for the people of Palau.

In education, renovation of classrooms at Palau Public High School is under way. Six new classrooms are under construction at Meyungs elementary school, and a four-classroom building has been designed and funded for Harris elementary school.

Categorical United States federal grants continue to provide for in-service teacher training and curriculum development, while increases in the overall education budget are being used to purchase new books and instructional materials. In post-secondary education, the Micronesian Occupational College, by enactment of Republic of Palau Public Law 4-2, became the Palau Community College, with only tenuous ties remaining with the Community College of Micronesia.

In the area of drugs and alcohol abuse, over the past three years the United States has provided $1.2 million for anti-substance-abuse programmes in Palau. The funds have been used by the Government of Palau to initiate an aggressive programme focusing on drug awareness education, job training, community outreach programmes, drug rehabilitation and counselling, drug

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interdiction and law-enforcement training, and public-awareness programmes. As a part of the public-awareness programmes, drug-free days have been held in several communities. These events, which have been well attended, are organized at community schools and involve students, parents and community leaders. The level of attention and support given by the leadership in Palau to these anti-substance-abuse initiatives demonstrates that local Palauan authorities are committed to establishing a drug-free society in Palau.

As noted by the Visiting Mission in March and April 1992, the tourism and fisheries industries continue to grow; they hold the greatest promise for economic development in Palau. In response to the growing tourism industry, renovation and additions to small hotels are in progress, with major additions under construction at the Palau Pacific Resort and a hotel in Airai state. The fishing industry has also experienced steady growth. Domestic fish markets continue to provide for local consumption, with both onshore and offshore fish catches contributing to a growing export market. Records indicate a significant increase in the fish catch over previous years.

The improvement of capital infrastructure remains a priority. The United States has recently provided funding for approximately $45 million of projects, which will further support the economic and social development of Palau. These projects - some in the planning stages, some under construction and others recently completed - include the repair, renovation or construction of roads, rural water systems, sewage systems, eletrical-power distribution systems, schools, the Koror-Babeldaob bridge, the new hospital and the Koror jail. In addition, the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Electrification Administration approved a loan this past year in the amount of

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$39 million for the Palau National Communication Corporation. These funds will be used to rebuild and expand the telecommunications system throughout Palau.

The economy of Palau is healthy and holds promise for substantial and sustained growth in the future. The national development plan is an important foundation that will provide rational and comprehensive planning for expansion of the economy of Palau while allowing the Palauans to be masters of their own destiny.

Finally, I wish to advise the Council of the status of three special matters to which we have devoted considerable time and effort: land surveying, fisheries protection and environmental protection.

In 1992, the Visiting Mission was made aware that the Palau Lands and Surveys Division was hampered by a lack of equipment, manpower and funds necessary to expedite the survey of land in Palau. Such surveys are critical to economic development. I am pleased to report that during the past year, the Department of the Interior provided technical assistance to Palau in the amount of $185,000. Palau has hired professional surveyors, provided training and purchased state-of-the-art satellite-positioning systems, survey equipment and compatible computer systems. This project has significantly accelerated land-survey work in Palau. Palau President Nakamura has also recognized the importance of this survey function by elevating the Office from a Division to a Bureau level. While these accomplishments will not immediately resolve all of the land problems in Palau, they will result in a more expeditious resolution of land and boundary disputes and will therefore facilitate future economic development.

(Mr. Stayman, United States)

Marine surveillance remains a serious concern to the Palau Government and the Administering Authority. No encroachments by foreign fishing vessels in Palauan waters have been reported to us during the past nine months. To assist Palau in protecting its water boundaries, however, the Department of the Interior has offered funding to activate the Palau Government patrol boat, a former United States Coast Guard cutter. Recent discussions with President Nakamura have resulted in an offer of assistance to upgrade dry-docking facilities in Palau in order to perform repairs on that vessel. A captain and law-enforcement crew will be recruited so that routine surveillance of Palauan waters can begin this year.

Protection of the environment remains a mutual concern of the Governments of both Palau and the United States. Just two weeks ago, the Department of the Interior organized a meeting of six United States environmental agencies with the Government of Palau to address environmental issues related to pioneering road construction on the island of Babeldaob. As a result of this joint effort, the Palauan Government is implementing a plan of action to prevent erosion and runoff into river and lagoon areas and also to ensure that road construction will be consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act and will be responsive to Babeldaob's sensitive natural environment. Those United States agency officials who attended the meeting will remain in contact with Palauan Government officials to provide technical assistance and funding and to ensure that road construction on Babeldaob can continue without environmental degradation.

The Administering Authority recognizes the need to protect Palau's unique natural resources. These resources are fragile yet hold the key to Palau's economic development. The Administering Authority will continue to balance these often conflicting objectives of resource protection and economic

(Mr. Stayman, United States)

development and will continue to meet its Trusteeship responsibilities through a close and cooperative relationship with the Government of Palau.

Let me assure members that my staff and I pledge our full support for and cooperation with the Trusteeship Council as it carries out its duties. I thank you for this opportunity to address the Council and look forward to participating in the discussions that will take place during the remainder of this session.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on Mr. Remengesau.

Mr. REMENGESAU (Special Representative): We congratulate you, Sir, on your unanimous election as President of this body. We should also like to assure you that we share with you the strong desire to wrap things up as soon as possible - this year, we hope. At the same time, we wish to acknowledge and thank the outgoing President, the members of the Council and the members of the Secretariat for their vast assistance and efforts to date. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to appear before this sixtieth session of the Trusteeship Council and acknowledge with pleasure the attendance of the members of the Council.

(Mr. Remengesau, Special Representative)

I appear before you today on behalf of President Kuniwo Nakamura of the Republic of Palau and wish to state for the record that the leadership of the Palau National Congress - the Olbiil Era Kelulau (OEK) - concurs with this statement.

We come to the Council today with a positive and optimistic report, about both the Republic of Palau and its relationship with the United States and the United Nations.

As members know, new leadership has been elected in the executive branches of the Republic of Palau and the United States. At the same time, many knowledgeable and experienced legislative leaders have been returned to office in both countries. In general, these leaders are in agreement on the need for Palau finally to resolve its status and for there to be a healthy and positive relationship between the two countries.

Since the beginning of this year, we in Palau have felt a new sense of concern, understanding and open communication with the Administering Authority, the United States. Indeed, we do not now think of the United States as an Administering Authority, but rather look upon the United States as our strong ally and good friend; and we believe that the United States looks at Palau in the same way. This does not mean that the United States and Palau have agreed on every issue, but there is now a positive working relationship and a sense of trust and respect between our two countries.

With the completion of our fourth national election under our Constitution, the Republic of Palau has a stable and strong Government. Our democratic institutions are well established and strong, having survived pressures which would have threatened many Governments.

Our economy is growing and our Government is financially sound. We have put in place new financial reforms, audits and controls. We have tried to be

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very prudent in what we spend. And last year we balanced our budget and had a small surplus.

Local tax revenues are growing, collection has been improved and this year we expect to balance our budget again. The assistance of the United States continues to become a smaller part of Palau's total operating budget.

With the assistance of the United States, Palau has also made progress in the last several years in addressing some of its most urgent needs. A new hospital now provides quality basic medical services. We have improved the compensation of our teachers and other critical personnel so that we can retain our best people to teach our children and run our Government. We have begun to build necessary access roads for our largest island, Babeldaob, and to make other improvements to the infrastructure.

Palau's budget request to the United States for 1994 reflects these developments, with emphasis on education, health care and the infrastructure. The operations budget request for fiscal year 1994 includes a 3 per cent inflation adjustment over last year and the increased cost of Palau's new hospital operations. A new and major part of the operations budget is funding for the newly created Palau Community College. This vocational institution located in Palau was formerly the College of Micronesia, supported by funding from the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau, with additional support from United States federal grants. The Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, however, decided to withdraw and go their own separate ways, and Palau must now bear the entire cost of this community college. The college is the answer to reversing the growing trend of imported labour and is the key to Palau's labour and human-resources development. It

(Mr. Remengesau, Special Representative)

will cost $3.9 million to run the college, and we have asked the United States Government for priority consideration in this regard.

For capital expenditures, the United States Administration has recommended an expenditure of $1 million to repair the Koror-Babeldaob Bridge, the key road-transportation link in our country. We support wholeheartedly this recommendation for construction money that would ensure much-needed construction work on the bridge to prevent its collapse. Additionally, we have requested other capital expenditures for the expansion of the present sewage-treatment system, which is now running far over its maximum capacity and requires immediate attention. We are working with the Office of Territorial and International Affairs to address this pressing concern, which would cost $6.8 million to deal with. Other Capital Investment Project (CIP) requests include $3 million for the rural water systems of Babeldaob, Urukdaob and south-west islands and $5.9 million for road repairs.

In previous years there have been other CIP funding grants which this administration has earmarked and is now vigorously implementing with construction for some and completion of architectural and engineering design for others. The 1994 CIP funding request would therefore be spent on actual construction costs. Palau is now working with the United States to address these urgent programmes and determine the level of funding needed for fiscal year 1994.

One matter that has been a centre of controversy for many years is the issue of the IPSECO Power Plant debt. We are committed to resolving this controversy and have taken the lead to seek an out-of-court settlement based on a fair and equitable resolution. While Palau believes that this dispute exists not because it acted in bad faith and that it would therefore prevail in any litigation, we prefer a settlement which covers the legitimate

(Mr. Remengesau, Special Representative)

obligations of the parties and ends the matter, so that Palau can have friendly relations with the banks involved in the near future. Palau will always recognize and honour its international financial obligations and believes it will be a highly credit-worthy nation.

In summary, Palau's Government and economy are strong, and we look forward to the future with great optimism, although we know that much remains to be done to provide adequate education, health care, and infrastructure to make Palau's economy truly self-sustaining.

As much as Palau wants its economy to grow, Palau also recognizes the need to protect its fragile environment for present and future generations. Palau believes that it can have a strong economy and protect its waters, air and habitats. Indeed, it is this protection that will be part of making the economy strong.

To that end, Palau is most appreciative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) contribution towards the development of a master plan for Palau. The development and implementation of this plan are among the highest priorities for our people. The Government of Palau is making completion of the plan one of its highest priorities. This will be done as expeditiously as possible while assuring that the plan reflects the environmental and economic needs of Palau.

Similarly, Palau is very appreciative of the assistance provided by the United States in helping Palau protect its environment. In recent weeks, the Government of Palau has worked with numerous agencies of the United States to make sure that the repair and construction of economically crucial roads will be undertaken while fully protecting the environment. The prompt and full response of the United States is greatly appreciated.

(Mr. Remengesau, Special Representative)

In this spirit of new cooperation, we look forward to working with the United States in other areas to protect the environment of Palau, including patrolling our reefs to prevent pollution and stop the poaching of our fish and the destruction of the reefs. Palau is one nation that strongly believes that the strongest environmental protection can indeed exist hand in hand with economic growth.

Finally, let me turn to the subject of the Compact of Free Association and Palau's status. I am pleased to report that the executive and legislative branches of the Government of Palau are both committed to making consideration of the Compact of Free Association a priority for this year. After positive discussions between the two Governments, Palau has received from the United States significant new assurances relating to the Compact. We are pleased that the assurances were even signed by Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

(Mr. Remengesau, Special Representative)

Those assurances will be a fundamental part of the relationship between Palau and the United States. They also demonstrate that now more than ever the central element of the strong relationship between Palau and the United States is a high degree of mutual trust and respect.

Based on those assurances, our national legislature is being asked to call a plebiscite on the Compact as soon as late July - 27 July 1993 to be exact - as was proposed very recently by President Nakamura in his message to the Olbiil Era Kelulau accompanying the proposed legislation calling for the plebiscite.

As members know, last year Palau, on the initiative of its people, held a referendum to amend the Constitution to reduce the 75 per cent approval level required to ratify the Compact. The referendum resulted in a 61.8 per cent approval, and the Compact will thus need a simple majority to pass.

If the Compact is approved, Palau hopes that it can be implemented in connection with the 1994 fiscal year and that the United Nations will promptly recognize our new nation and allow us to join the Organization. We believe the United Nations is the world's best hope for the health of its people, for the protection of its environment and for peace among our peoples.

I will close on the hopeful note that I believe we are close to the day when the Republic of Palau will take its rightful place as a strong and valued member of the community of nations. We welcome the presence and solicit the participation of the United Nations in observing the plebiscite when it is held.

Again, we thank the Council for the opportunity to appear here today and for all its past and continuing support for the Republic of Palau.

The PRESIDENT: I want to thank The Honourable Tommy Remengesau for that important statement and to assure him that his feelings are reciprocated by members of the Council.

We have just heard important statements which I am sure members will wish to consider. I remind everyone that there will be an opportunity to comment or to ask questions under item 4 of our agenda at our meeting tomorrow. I also note in passing the invitation made by the representative of the United States as Administering Authority for a Visiting Mission to go to Palau on the occasion of the proposed referendum. That is undoubtedly something that members of the Council will have to consider over the next few days and on which, if they agree, they will have to take appropriate action.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: Before adjourning the meeting, I would like to inform members that when we meet tomorrow morning at 10.30 - and I urge members to be prompt - the Council will hear petitioners whose requests are contained in documents T/PET.10/760 and 761. The Council will also take up items 4 to 11 listed in the timetable.

As regards agenda item 7, on dissemination of information, I wish to inform members that a representative of the Department of Public Information will be present at our meeting tomorrow morning to introduce the related report; if there are any questions he will reply to them.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.